

3 Rec'd NOTED 0 4 JUN 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present patent application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will review art of record in all 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority documents.

1. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.
2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - a) ☐ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - b) ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - c) ☐ Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).
 - a) ☐ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - b) ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information on this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable

inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

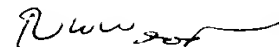
37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

4. ☐ Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
5. ☒ The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
6. ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
7. ☐ The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
8. ☐ Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

If Applicant has overlooked the payment of any fees with regard to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1682 for same. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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DWW/db
Enclosures